Julie Mayo

Project #4

Oral History Summary

My family is loud. We talk to much and most of the time we talk with more then open mouths. We talk with our hands and our eyes, and sometimes the back of our heads. We are not for everyone but those who love us never leave us. My family is strong and held together tightly; I think that is why we are okay with being so far apart.

My family has been in the United States as far back as records show, however some of my ancestors did not come until the mid 1700 we have all been here a while. On my fathers side my Granddad is pure German. He has always told me that, proud of whom he is and where his family comes from. My grandmother always shakes her head and says honey all I know is that I am here now. After some heavy research I found that her family too comes from Germany. My mother’s parents are both English. Both families migrated to the United States during the 1700’s as well.

As I did some research I found that if there is one thing my family has always been it is patriotic. I remember being taught at a very young age when you see an American flag you close your eyes and say thank you, because you are lucky to see it. Both of my grandfathers served in the military. My Granddad Jones serving in WWII and my Grandfather Brown serving in the Korean War. My Granddad was injured and left with back problems that left him unable to walk properly on his own. My grandfather was able to get out with little physical harm but would suffer emotionally for years after. His older brother Leroy never came back from Pearl Harbor when he was a boy and though he went to fight in the Korean War…it would never bring his brother back.

My Father grew up helping his dad at the local barbershop and listening to his stories about WWII and traveling with the military. My dad wanted nothing more then to get out of that small town of Ohio he seemed to be stuck in. So right after he graduated he joined the United States Air Force and married my mother. My mother’s younger sister loved the idea of getting out of Ohio just like my mother and father had so she too decided to join the United States Air Force.

She wanted to work in Special Forces but being the late eighties her recruiter told her she needed a nice desk job and that nothing like that was open right now. She told him she would think about it and came back an hour later and over heard him offer a job in Special Forces to a young guy just out of high school. She walked right into his office and demanded he give her that job! And you know what…she got it!

My brother and sister would both follow in the footsteps of our parents as well as my husband. I have countless cousins in the military in all branches. I have family stationed at Germany, England, Main Land, and all over the US right now. We may not be together for Christmas or even during the summer, but when ever I see an American flag I close my eyes and thank God for giving me such an amazing strong family!